

3-1-1862

## Arthur McKinstry to Mother

Arthur McKinstry

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Packets at Sandy Point March 1<sup>st</sup> 1862

Dear Mother,

As I have a good chance to write I will make the most of it and tell you what little good news I have in store. I got a letter from Loney the other day "Via Fortress Monroe", she is at West Pt. Miss. and the family were well with the exception of herself. She considered her personal security ample but her health was poor. I sent her letter at once to Aunt Eliza and it was a very apropos answer to an anxious inquiry from her as to whether any means existed of communicating with the absentees. Loney said that she had been trying some chalybeate springs but thought my letter (I had condensed in it all the news even to the birth of Emily's boy) a greater panacea than the medicinal waters. I am very hearty and enjoy glorious health. I am on "Picket" with the company and have morally a fine cannonade as a dessert no less than once per diem.

I enclose to you Uncle Willard's last letter and in  
so doing I must say that in my reply (of to-day)  
I declined any assistance as inexpedient. I am getting  
along famously and any pressure from the outside  
is more likely to result in harm than help to me  
for though it might succeed, if it was ever discover-  
ed it would work a good deal of mischief.

There is much jealousy as to promotions and it is  
no kindness to the recipient of an unwise choice,  
I consider my chances of the very best and shall do  
nothing which if discovered would bring up the  
complaint of unfairness. The wind is worthy of the  
day but the birds are here already and though the  
river edge is marked by a line of frozen foam  
spring is not far behind. I must go on guard  
to night and though it is pretty cold I am  
glad that it is at least dry. I shall stand  
one relief of four hours and sleep the next  
eight and I am sure that that is no very  
hard 24 hours task. I have heard once from  
Uncle Theodore lately and have sent a sheet  
of foolscap as well as fool ideas in reply. He was  
as democratic as ever and looked through



Peterman's own spectacles. No matter, the destiny  
of the nation is in the hands of younger  
and stronger men and the days of the  
drinking lotards of Buchanan's stamp are over.  
I will not underrate the wisdom which age  
is apt to bring but I feel fully satisfied that  
our army our navy and our state have  
suffered incalculable injury from the well  
meant but feeble management of superannuated  
warriors and statesmen whose enfeebled brains  
and untrusty sinews were unfit to calculate  
and unable to accomplish the parts which  
they sought to play. Scott has retired and  
brave warrior and almost revered though he be  
he would have done us a greater service had  
he retired earlier. He is competent to command  
the army in peace but his vital forces are too  
far spent for the active toils of war.

Well I have done considerable writing to day and  
feel tired so I will not continue much longer.  
You must punch that great old Frank in  
the ribs and make him write often.

He is a good writer and the greatest kindness

you can do him is to make him exercise his  
talents in that line. I think Louie too must  
be able to write now and I want to hear from  
him too. I heard from Jennie a few days since  
he was of Alf. White and must answer.  
No stamps are sent I will enclose the silver to accom-  
pany your outlay Give my love to all the family  
and write by Jeff or Percy as soon as you can

Your aff son

Arthur

Just as before



Camp Wood Maryland  
March 1862

Major Stevens  
Major M. Stevens  
3<sup>d</sup> E. B.

Due

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Mrs Austin Chapin  
Forestville  
N.Y.

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